

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 20, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire August 20, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claims 4, 6, 11 and 12 are cancelled, Claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended, and Claims 13-16 are added. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10 and 13-16 are now pending.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicants note with appreciation that in paragraph 3 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 4, 6 and 11 would be allowed if rewritten to incorporate the features of their respective base claims. Claims 4, 6 and 11 have now been cancelled, and their features incorporated into their respective base Claims 1, 5 and 7. Applicants therefore respectfully request the allowance of Claims 1, 5 and 7, and their respective dependent claims.

NEW CLAIMS

The present response includes new Claims 13-16, which are similar to original Claims 1-4, with the inclusion of the feature that the "operations of writing to and reading from said recording device are performed by a single read/write head using data supplied from and to said respective input and output buffers." In the present Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sata et al* (U.S. Patent No. 5,134,499 – "*Sata*") in view of *Krause et al.* (WO 96/33579 – "*Krause*").

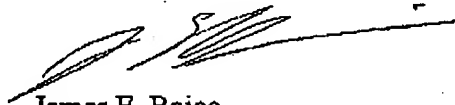
With reference to exemplary Claim 13, Applicants point out that *Sata* teaches the use of a separate read head and a separate write head, such that the read head and write head are able to operate independently (*Sata* claim 1, paragraph b). Applicants also point out that *Krause* teaches away from the claimed feature of "simultaneously storing said input data into said input buffer and transferring said output data from said output buffer." Rather, *Krause* teaches that all reading and writing operations using buffers cannot be simultaneous, since "currently available high-access storage devices are able to support only one [data] transfer at a time" (*Krause* page 12, lines 23-33, term "data" added in conformance with context of quote).

CONCLUSION

Applicants now respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 09-0466**.

Respectfully submitted,



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